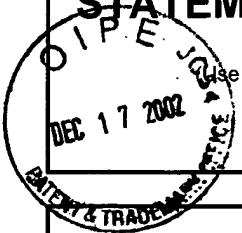


Substitute for form 1449A/PTO (modified)

# INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Page 1 of 1

Application Number **09/972,124**Filing Date **October 5, 2001**First Named Inventor **Birkholz, Russell D.**Art Unit **1771**Examiner Name **Daniel R. Zirker**Attorney Case Number **56764US002**

## U.S. Patent Documents

Exam. Init.*	Cite No.	Document Number	Publication Date or Issue Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Doc. Number-(Kind Code if Known)			
AZ	A1	US- 4,577,205	3/18/86	Shibata et al	
	A2	US-			
	A3	US-			1
	A4	US-			DEC 10 2003
	A5	US-			RECEIVED
	A6	US-			C 1700 MAIL ROOM
	A7	US-			
	A8	US-			
	A9	US-			
	A10	US-			
	A11	US-			

## Foreign Patent Documents

Exam. Init.*	Cite No.	Foreign Patent Document		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	Translation (Check if yes)
		Ctry. Code	Number-KindCode (If known)				
	B1						
	B2						
	B3						
	B4						
	B5						
	B6						
	B7						

## OTHER PRIOR ART -- NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Exam. Init.*	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published
	C1	
	C2	
	C3	

\*Examiner: *Daniel Zirker* Date Considered: *3/13/03*

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Art Unit 1771

failed to address this particular obviousness rationale, so it is hereby repeated.

6. Applicants' amendment necessitated the new grounds of rejection. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See M.P.E.P. § 706.07(a). Applicants are reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a). The practice of automatically extending the shortened statutory period an additional month upon the filing of a timely first response to a final rejection has been discontinued by the Office. See 1021 TMOG 35.

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE TO THIS FINAL ACTION IS SET TO EXPIRE THREE MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THIS ACTION. IN THE EVENT A FIRST RESPONSE IS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE MAILING DATE OF THIS FINAL ACTION AND THE ADVISORY ACTION IS NOT MAILED UNTIL AFTER THE END OF THE THREE-MONTH SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD, THEN THE SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD WILL EXPIRE ON THE DATE THE ADVISORY ACTION IS MAILED, AND ANY EXTENSION FEE PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) WILL BE CALCULATED FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THE ADVISORY ACTION. IN NO EVENT WILL THE STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE EXPIRE LATER THAN SIX MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THIS FINAL ACTION.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel Zirker whose telephone number is (703) 308-0031. The examiner